



Fig. 1. Tokey Gecko hatchling showing empty egg adhering to branch.

MADRAS SNAKE PARK TRUST,
MADRAS-600 022,
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21. RANGE EXTENSION FOR THE SNAKEHEAD *OPHIOCEPHALUS*
... *GACHUA* HAMILTON-BUCHANAN (OSTEICHTHYES:
CHANNIDAE) IN IRAN

The snakeheads are freshwater fishes of tropical Africa and southern Asia with an interrupted distribution being absent from Iran and the Arabian Peninsula according to Nelson (1976). However one species, *Ophiocephalus gachua*, has been recorded from Iran in the upper or middle reaches of the Bampur River, Baluchistan (Nikolsky 1899). In addition a single specimen has been caught in an irrigation ditch 2 Km. south of Sabzeveran

(=Jiroft) in the drainage of the River Haliri, Kerman Province on 6 May 1977 (28° 39'N, 57° 45'E). This locality lies over 300 Km. to the north-west of the Bampur River at Bampur and is the most westerly locality for the genus *Ophiocephalus*.

The specimen is a female, 135 mm total length, with 33 dorsal fin rays, 22 anal fin rays, 16 pectoral fin rays, 5 ventral fin rays, and 43 scales in the lateral line with 4 scales

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

above and 9 scales below the lateral line. In the live specimen the caudal, dorsal and anal fins were edged with a strong orange colour and the anal fin was light orange. All these fins had an iridescent green colour between the fin rays. In the preserved specimen the orange fin margins become white (cf. Kabs-

bauer, 1963).

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22. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *ICHTHYOPHIS PENINSULARIS* TAYLOR, (GYMNOPHIONA: CAECILIDAE) FROM ALAMCHOLAI (DISTRICT KANYAKUMARI, TAMIL NADU, INDIA)

Genus *Ichthyophis* has a limited distribution, mostly confined to the hilly regions of Western India from Malabar to Bombay, Nilgiris, and foothills of Himalayas.

Daniel (1963), has given an account of the distribution and habit of the Indian Caeciliidae. Taylor (1961), described seven species of the genus *Ichthyophis* in India of which the species *peninsularis*, according to him has been recorded only from Malabar. No other record exists of this species elsewhere in India. The present collection, a single specimen was made from Alamchulai, a mountainous region (8°26' N, 77°15' 30" E) located about 65 km north of Cape Comorin near the Tamilnadu-Kerala border in south west India. The speci-

men collected from underneath a decomposing fallen bark was identified as Taylor's *I. peninsularis*.

Total length 330 mm, head length to body length 20 times, tail length in total length 30 times, body girth in the middle 40 mm, transverse folds 364, folds on tail 18, tentacle closer to eye than to nostril. Anal slit longitudinal. There is a distinct oval white spot around the anus. Dorsal side dark, ventral side very light, cream coloured.

The present record of this species extends its range of distribution farther south from Malabar to Alamchulai in Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu in the South Western India.